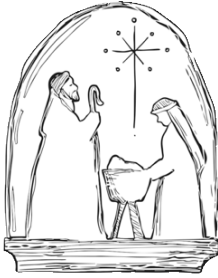


Advent 2018

David J. Conrad

Director of Faith Formation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>December 2</p> <p>Buy or make an Advent wreath. Bless it and light the first violet candle each night this week. Read <i>Luke 21:25-36</i>.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Advent is about waiting for the Savior to come. Offer a prayer anytime you have to wait during Advent.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Let your Bible fall open and contemplate the reading the Holy Spirit puts before you.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Include in your Christmas cards a note about the blessings you have received this year as a witness to God's love.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Offer your parish the gift of your time, talent, or treasure. Describe it in a Christmas card and send it to your pastor.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Show love on St. Nicholas Day by making at least one generous act today.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Today honors the feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrating Mary's birth without Original Sin. In her honor, attend Mass.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet. Read <i>Luke 3:1-6</i>.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Today honors the feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrating Mary's birth without Original Sin. In her honor, attend Mass.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Resolve to conquer it during Advent.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Today, try to remember stories from the Bible of God's merciful treatment of sinners.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>The presence of Jesus in our lives speaks of our hope in God's mercy. Today, list your reasons for hope in the future.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Today is Gaudete Sunday - the halfway point of Advent. Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. <i>Luke 3:10-18</i>.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Light a candle and sit in silence for 15 minutes. Focus on whom it is you are waiting.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for the men and women in the armed services who won't be able to spend Christmas with their families.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Make time today to feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or one who is hungry for kindness, too.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>This can be a sad time for those who are alone. Include anyone in your own gatherings who might otherwise be forgotten.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Set up your Nativity scene. Picture yourself in the scene and think about how you would act if you were there.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Even if you live alone, put up a Christmas tree. Put just a few ornaments on each day and finish up on Christmas Eve.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Light all four candles in the Advent Wreath tonight and all week. Reread today's Gospel reading, <i>Luke 1:39-45</i>.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Rejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20. Think about how joyful it will be to finally meet Jesus when he comes.</p>	 <p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)</i></p>			